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\$53K grant saves Riverside company

Riverside business buys chiller after well is contaminated.

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By Steven Matthews

Staff Writer

RIVERSIDE — Mullins Rubber Products in Riverside recently was awarded a \$53,000 Economic Development/Government Equity grant from Montgomery County, an announcement that saves the company, according to president Bill Mullins.

Mullins Rubber Products, 2949 Valley Pike, will use the ED/GE grant to help purchase a chiller, which will be installed the week of July 15 during the company's annual shutdown period.

Mullins said the company had been using a well the last 60 years, but the water became contaminated and had to be shut down.

"Without this chiller, we'd be out of business," Mullins said. "This is highly essential. The rubber has to be kept cool during processing, then we heat it to finish it."

Founded in 1939, Mullins Rubber Products molds rubber goods primarily for the heavy duty truck trailer industry, and sells them all over the United States and world, including India, China, England and Italy.

The company currently employs 56 people, but it was only a few years ago when it had 95. Mullins said the company brings in between \$8 million to \$12 million in sales annually.

"We are a niche market," he said. "When the truck trailer business is down, so are we. When they're booming, we are, too."

Mullins, whose facility is 70,000 square feet, said his business is negotiating with a company in India that could bring another

\$500,000 in sales.

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